

THE PEOPLES' ROLLER MILL

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In early Utah almost all communities had flour mills, and they were small mills comparable to the one we have in Midway (or that we had in Midway) but most of them now are out of operation. People no longer grow wheat nor do they bake bread, as a general rule, and so the flour mill business just faded away.

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People's Flour Mill

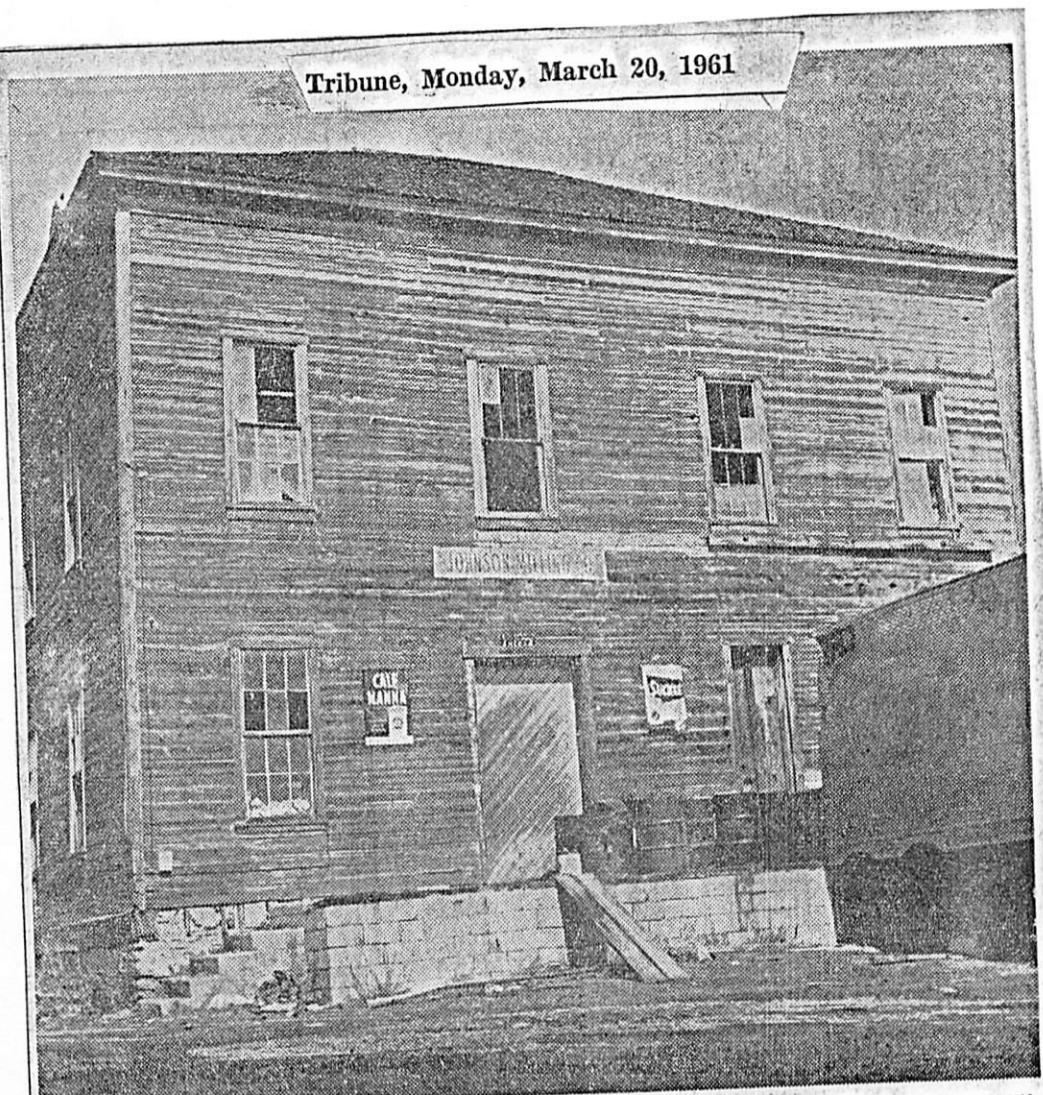


The Spirit of America



Mabry Mill, Virginia by Clyde H. Smith

Tribune, Monday, March 20, 1961



A Midway landmark, the 67-year-old grist mill, is being put back to use — this time as a tool and dye machine factory. It's undergoing a complete renovation project.

Factory, Machine Shop

Old Pioneer Mill Comes to Life Again

Special to The Tribune
MIDWAY, Wasatch County

—An old pioneer mill that once hummed with the milling of

grain has come alive again.

THE 67-YEAR-OLD grist mill, a two-story weathered, wooden affair, is being turned into a different kind of factory by the Henry R. Lifferth Tool & Dye and Machine Co.

Old milling machinery is being taken out to make way for new machines that will turn the mill into a factory and machine shop, offering commercial manufacturing and custom work to customers.

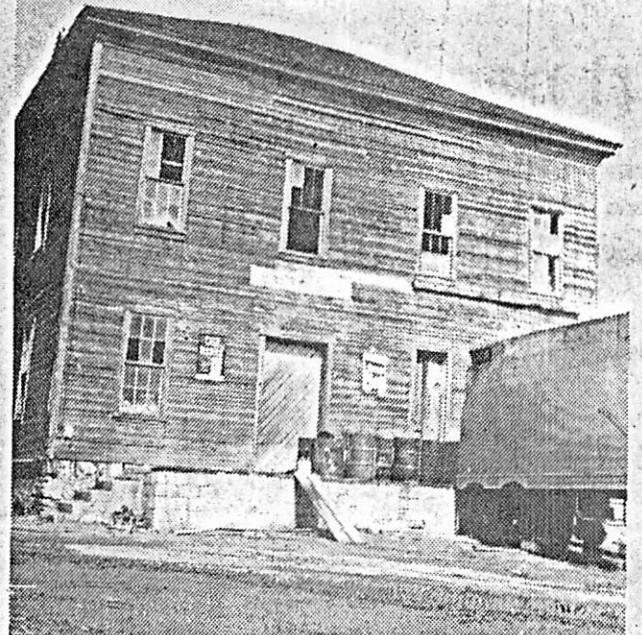
THE 7,500 square-feet of floor space will give room for heat treating, tool and dye work, a punch press, welding, fabrication and painting, Mr. Lifferth reported.

About 10 men will be employed, with expansion being considered in the near future, he said.

Operations are expected to start within a month.

SOME OF THE items the company will make include sky hooks for hospitals, wrenches and screw starters.

The old mill was built by Mark Jeffs in 1893. Nels J. Johnson bought it in 1902 and it has remained in the Johnson family since. It was operated by a son until a few years ago when it shut down.



A MIDWAY LANDMARK, the 80-year-old grist mill that once hummed with the milling of grain, has been remodeled and now serves as a home.

Growing Midway City Steps Up the Tempo

By SHIRLEY CHATWIN

MIDWAY — Strolling through the past and marching through the future, could easily describe Midway. Once a quiet little community nestled at the foot of towering Mt. Timpanogos, it is now a hive of activity, mostly in the development of new homes and subdivisions.

Austin D. Kelly, 89, long time resident of Midway has seen many changes.

Many of the city's pioneer buildings stand today as a tribute to the builders. Mr. Kelly and many others in the community remember the Stake Welfare Building when it served as the old social hall.

The best bands available were scheduled for the weekly Saturday night dances. Crowds packed the hall and danced the quadrilles, waltz, two-step, schoudich and the cake walk.

There were other activities that rated the cooperation of everyone in the town. There were the town picnics, hometown rodeo's, celebrations complete with boweries and barbeques. The big events were baseball games with the rival team of Heber. Regardless of who won, it usually ended in a big fight, Mr. Kelly recalls.

Tug-of-Wars

There were challenges of tug-of-war between Heber and the Kraut Hounders (as residents from Midway were sometimes called because of the large amount of sauerkraut consumed by town folks). Heber would line up on the Heber side of Provo River and Midway on the west side and the tug-of-war would begin. If your team didn't get pulled into the river, you were likely to get wet anyway in the usual brawl that followed.

Midway was first settled in 1859. There were two communities, the Upper and Lower settlements. The Upper settlement became known as Mound City because of the many limestone formations found in the area. The lower settlement was about a mile and one-half

south of the present city.

Fort Built

In 1866 the threat of attacks by Indians made it necessary for the two settlements to come together for mutual protection. They choose the middle ground - half way between to build a fort. Seventy-five primitive dirt roofed log cabins sprang into existence, some abutting against each other, while between others were erected strong panels of upright posts. In this manner an impregnable wall was formed.

The new settlement was called Midway. When the threat of Indians lessened, the people decided to stay and build homes in the new community.

Midway, a City

Midway became a third class city in 1971 following the 1970 census that gave a count of 804 people.

The beautiful setting, climate, etc. is an attraction to the nearby metropolitan areas. A building boom is being experienced. Several subdivisions have been approved that will add many more homes to the city.

Recreation is one of the city's most valuable assets. Hot mineral springs have helped in the development of recreational resorts. The Wasatch Mountain State Park and golf course also draws many people to the area and adds to the economy of the entire Heber Valley.

today's FUNNY



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Johnsons*



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Flour Milling

other Early millers of Midway included George Bonner, James Ross, a Mr. Saxey, Brigham Mulliner, Hyrum Horner Dennis, Mark Jeffs and Mr. John Van Wagoner.

The major mill in Midway had its beginnings in 1893 when Mark Jeffs built a large, four-story grist mill on the east side of Midway near the Provo River. This mill was capable of producing 50 barrels of flour every 24 hours. Water from Provo River powered the mill, which was the first roller mill in the county. An additional source of water was the Birkumshaw Springs, about a mile and a half above the mill. Water was stored in a large pond overnight and then used as desired during the day.

Because Mr. Jeffs hired transient millers to operate his mill, the venture failed to succeed and was closed in 1900.

However, Nels Joseph Johnson, a young miller, and native of Wasatch County, purchased the mill in 1903 and started operating it again. Mr. Johnson had been working for Abram Hatch in the Heber Flour Mills, but moved his wife and family to Midway as soon as he purchased the mill. He is reported to have paid Mr. Jeffs \$10,000 for the facility. 575

Through the years the mill has been successfully managed by Mr. Johnson and his sons. During World War I it ran at full capacity producing flour for the government. Most of this production was shipped to Houston, Texas. Flour was also shipped to San Francisco during the tragic earthquake of 1906.

Improvements made at the mill during the years included cleaning machines for the wheat, chopping facilities and flour bleaching equipment. Hundreds of tons of wheat were also stored in the mill.

For many years the mill was operated under the name of Peoples Roller Mills, and then later the Johnson Milling Company. When Mr. Johnson died in 1950, his son, Ralph J. Johnson took over the management. The mill is now the property of the Lifferth Manufacturing Co. It is under the management of Henry Lifferth. The company makes small metal tools.



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People's
Roller Mill
Manufacturing
Co.